

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-3 (canceled)

4. (currently amended): A plant for handling and stacking thermoformed containers or lids having at least three projections acting as stacking spacers, at least one of which is arranged at a distance, from a reference centre line of said container or lid, that differs from distance between remaining projections and said reference centre line, at non ~~specular symmetry with respect to at least a centre line of the respective container or lid,~~ said plant ~~including~~ comprising, in sequence, a receiving station for a container or lid or a moulding of containers or lids, at least one handling ~~a stacking~~ or working station for said containers or lids, a stacking station for said containers or lids, transfer means ~~of for~~ for transferring the containers or lids from the receiving station to the stacking station through each working or handling station, ~~and is characterized in that~~ wherein at least one of the said handling stations includes handling means arranged to rotate through a predetermined angle every other moulding of containers or lids before or during their transfer to said stacking station, thereby obtaining stacks of lids or containers, where the stacking spacers of a container or lid are angularly offset with respect to those of the next container or lid.

5. (currently amended): ~~[[A]]~~ The plant according to claim 4, wherein said handling means ~~are~~ comprises a support structure and a picking up head or unit for picking up samples of a moulding of thermoformed products, which is are ~~rotatably~~ supported for rotation about a vertical axis ~~rotatably~~ and can be lifted and lowered on said support structure.

6. (currently amended): ~~[[A]]~~The plant according to claim 5, wherein said picking up head or unit comprises a support member rotatably mounted around a vertical axis on said support structure, a multiplicity of spacers carried by said support member and extending downwards, and a holding means carried by each said spacer, said multiplicity of spacers being arranged and spaced apart with one another ~~respect to the remaining holding means~~ according to the configuration of a moulding of thermoformed ~~products~~ objects transported by said transfer means.

7. (currently amended): ~~[[A]]~~The plant according to claim 6, wherein said holding means includes suckers.

8. (currently amended): ~~[[A]]~~The plant according to claim 6, including a geared motor unit for controlled rotation of said support member.

9. (currently amended): ~~[[A]]~~The plant according to claim 6, wherein said support structure includes a fixed support, an overhanging arm having one end thereof slidably mounted along at least ~~[[a]]~~ one vertical guide on said fixed support, and drive means to cause said overhanging arm controllably to lift and lower.

10. (currently amended): ~~[[A]]~~The plant according to claim 6, wherein said handling means includes a robot having at least ~~an~~ one overhanging arm mounted for rotation ~~either~~ around a horizontal axis ~~to carry out~~ for raising-lowering movements ~~for~~ said support member ~~or~~ and around a vertical axis ~~to~~ for transferring mouldings of thermoformed products away from said transfer means.

11. (currently amended): ~~[[A]]~~The plant according to claim 10, wherein said robot comprises drive means and guide means to carry out movements from and to said handling station.

12. (currently amended): ~~[[A]]~~The plant according to claim 4, wherein said handling means include at least a support template for a moulding of thermoformed objects, a

support frame carried by said transfer means for each support template and having a circular opening at which a respective template is rotatably mounted, and drive means for causing said template controllably to rotate upon control.

13. (currently amended): ~~[[A]]~~The plant according to claim 4, wherein said transfer means comprises at least one rotating conveyor ~~with~~ having a plurality of arms.

14. (currently amended): ~~[[A]]~~The plant according to claim 4, wherein said transfer means comprises at least one linear conveyer.

15. (currently amended): ~~[[A]]~~The plant according to claim 13, comprising a single station thermoforming press with cut and form mould having a suction plate ~~for picking~~ arranged to pick up mouldings of thermoformed objects products thermoformed therein and ~~arranged to discharge mouldings of thermoformed products~~ them at said receiving station.